

PELOSI, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, and the Honorable HARRY REID, Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 109-236, we hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the MINER Act Technical Study Panel: Dr. James L. Weeks of Maryland.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader,
House of Representatives

HARRY REID,
Democratic Leader,
U.S. Senate.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 2230

FAREWELL STATEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, 14 years ago I began my fight for social and economic justice in the House of Representatives on behalf of middle-class families in my State of Ohio. During those years, this Chamber saw at times heated, even acrimonious debate that often divided this room. At other times, the Nation, through C-SPAN, bore witness to bipartisan teamwork on behalf of families across our country. I treasure every moment as I prepare to leave the House and join the Senate.

I will be forever grateful to my House colleagues of both parties with whom I worked side by side on issues of great importance to middle-class families, to working families, on health care and trade and education. You are all too many in number to name, but so many played a significant role in making my time here in the House one of which I will be exceptionally proud.

I thank you all for that.

It was an arduous year for the country and an inspiring one. It served as a reminder that those of us blessed with the privilege of serving in this great institution do so always at the pleasure of the people in our great country.

This year showed something equally important: The time has come to put the fight for social and economic justice and progressive values into action on behalf of middle-class families and working families. It is time for Democrats and Republicans to work together to deliver upon promises made during stump speeches. It is time for the House and Senate to work together to

raise the minimum wage, to build an alternative energy industry, to expand access to affordable health care, to lower the cost of tuition, to revamp our trade policy so we again create good-paying jobs in our communities.

It is time to unabashedly take up the fight for social and economic justice at every level of government and at every corner of our free market system. We are the world's leading superpower, and with that comes the responsibility to lead by example. It is time for Congress to lead by example and fight for justice for all Americans.

In a few short weeks, I will take that fight to the United States Senate. I will take with me the values that served me well during these past 14 years, values shared by so many of my colleagues in Washington, by families across Ohio, and by one very special friend.

It is often at the hardest times that the greatest truths are confirmed. Such was the case this week for my family and me.

We lost a dear friend, my best friend of 30 years, John Kleshinski, last Wednesday. He was only 55. John was not just a champion of social and economic justice, he was a hero to so many. A successful businessman, John was also a man of great faith, who felt his formidable professional accomplishments bestowed upon him a responsibility to give back to his community, to fight for justice for the weakest among us. A man who took up piano in his late forties, he had his first recital at 50 and became the board chairman of the local community organization and established scholarships for underprivileged children. He gave back in more ways than I can mention in 5 minutes.

But more important than the generosity of his time and money was his generosity of spirit. He was a man who found joy in the triumph of others, and in doing so he led by example showing us all the best we can be when we commit ourselves, neighbor to neighbor, Democrat to Republican. John left a legacy that will now be emulated by the thousands of lives he touched. We will all, in effect, pay it forward. Thank you, John, for that.

We are the legacy we create, each of us as husbands and fathers, as wives and mothers, as employees and workers, and, yes, as elected officials. It is the mission of the 110th Congress to create a legacy in which families thrive and our Nation is strengthened, social and economic justice, fair trade, affordable health care for all, quality education. They sound like campaign slogans, and for the last year across this country they were, but they are now our tasks at hand.

We have much work to do, the House and the Senate, Democrats and Republicans. It is our time to lead by example to chart a path that establishes a legacy of unparalleled productivity on behalf of middle-class families. It is time that social and economic justice takes its rightful place in the halls of Congress. It is time to get to work.

I wish the families of Ohio and this country a safe holiday season and a blessed 2007. I especially thank my family, my mother Emily, who has led the fight and education in our family for social and economic justice; my brother, Bob, and his wife, Catherine Scalon; and my brother Charlie, and his wife Anne Swanson; my daughter Emily and her husband Mike; my daughter Elizabeth; my daughter Caitlin; my son Andy and his fiancée, Stina; and, more than anybody, my dear wife, Connie Schultz, who has stood and led and done so much to make the lives of our family so much better and the lives of people around my State better.

God bless you, John. We will all miss you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements for the RECORD on the retirement of MICHAEL G. OXLEY, a Member from Ohio.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague of the Ohio delegation, MIKE OXLEY, as he concludes 25 years of service to the constituents of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, this House and the people of this Nation. Many of MIKE's colleagues will be submitting statements today or tomorrow to pay tribute to MIKE, or during the week. So I will limit my remarks in order to allow each of them the opportunity to speak if they should so desire.

MIKE has been a member of our Ohio delegation in this House since 1981. He has served with distinction for these past 25 years. He has put in the hard work required to learn the issues that have come before him within the committee jurisdictions of both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and, most recently, the House Financial Services Committee. As chairman of the Financial Services Committee, he is the author of the Sarbanes-Oxley